

118 JUVENILE RAMBLES.

swers to the common observation in life, that we must not judge of every thing merely by appearances. Those swans, when stripped of their stately feathers, are of little value; while the simple-looking goose will furnish us with an excellent repast; and I am sure you are both fond of geese.

Those pretty ducks, which you now see so merrily swimming on the water, are no unwelcome guests on our table. And, what say you both to a duck and green pease? But pray observe, that the feet of these ducks and geese are webbed, as are the feet of every other kind of water-fowl, which Providence has so directed, to serve them as oars to force their way through the water, and carry them wherever they please to go.

As I find we have some little time to spare before breakfast will be ready, I shall take the opportunity to tell you, that there are some birds, which they call

*Birds*

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*Birds of Passage*; that is, birds which pass part of their time here, and the rest of their time in other countries.

Quails are said to come here in the spring from countries at some hundreds of miles distance. They take their flight in such numerous troops, that they sometimes appear like thick clouds in the sky; and very often our ships at sea are so covered with them, that our sailors catch them with all the ease imaginable.

Swallows, and some other birds, at the approach of winter, march off in quest of milder climates. They assemble on a certain day, and fly off in a body. It is very singular, my dears, that they should all meet so exactly on one day, take their flight together, and leave not a single straggler behind them. The principal birds of passage are the quails, swallows, wild-ducks, plovers, wood-cocks, and cranes.

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